



## *What is a TMDL?*

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□ *In technical terms, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) represents the carrying capacity of a waterbody, taking into consideration point and nonpoint sources of pollutants of concern, natural background and surface water withdrawals. In general terms, a TMDL quantifies the amount of a pollutant, known as pollutant loading, a water body can assimilate without violating a state's water quality standards.*

### *When are TMDLs Required?*

□ *In accordance with Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1315(B)), States are required to prepare and submit to the USEPA a report that identifies waters that do not meet or are not expected to meet surface water quality standards (SWQS). This report is commonly referred to as the 303(d) list. In accordance with Section 305(b) of the CWA, the States are also required biennially to prepare and submit to the USEPA a report addressing the overall water quality of the State's waters. This report is commonly referred to as the 305(b) Report or the Water Quality Inventory Report. Those waterbodies, which are listed on the 303(d) list, are water quality limited waterbodies and therefore a total maximum daily load (TMDL) must be developed for each individual pollutant in these waterbodies based on an agreed upon schedule between the state and EPA.*

□ *In November 2001, the USEPA issued guidance that encouraged states to integrate 305(b) Report and the 303(d) List into one report. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) chose to develop an Integrated Report for New Jersey starting in 2002. The Integrated List of Waterbodies combines these two assessments and assigns waterbodies to one of five sublists. In general, Sublists 1 through 4 include waterbodies that are unimpaired (Sublist 1 and 2), have limited assessment or data availability (Sublist 3), are impaired due to pollution rather than pollutants or have had a TMDL or other enforceable management measure approved by EPA expected to achieved Water Quality Standards (Sublist 4). Sublist 5 constitutes the traditional 303(d) List for water impaired or threatened by one or more pollutants and for which a TMDL must be developed. Based on this integrated list the NJDEP signed a Memorandum of Agreement with EPA which set out a schedule for completion of TMDLs.*

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## **What do TMDLs Tell Us?**

□ *A TMDL allocates the load capacity to point sources in the form of wasteload allocations (WLAs), and to nonpoint sources in the form of load allocations (LAs), and, as applicable, identifies a reserve capacity and a margin of safety. WLAs result in Water Quality Based Effluent Limits for Water Treatment Plants and requirements based on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for regulated stormwater point sources. TMDLs are calculations and a separate TMDL calculation is prepared for each pollutant listed on each stream segment or lake. These calculations and the report that accompanies them are subject to public participation, approval by EPA and adopted as an amendment to the Water Quality Management Plan. New Jersey also developed management strategies to implement the needed load reductions so that the development of TMDLs results in attaining water quality and designated use goals.*